

## COVID-19 Guidance

Please find below specific guidance for Referee Observers operating within Grassroots Football.

### Pre-match

- On receipt of your appointment, please make contact with the home club and match referee to confirm match arrangements and advise of your attendance.
- On contact with the referee, please confirm whether there are any aspects of the referee's pre-match instructions that should be brought to the observer's attention. There is no need for the observer to attend pre-match instructions at the game, as weather conditions mean it may not always be possible to conduct outdoors.
- Confirm with the referee that they will organise a remote post-match debrief/discussion via video conferencing and agree a suitable time. Please note for any referees U18, this must also be with a parent/carer present.

### At the match

- Observers should follow all Covid-19 guidance as detailed by the club and their Covid-19 Officer, including social distancing. Face-to-face contact should be kept to a minimum.
- Observers are requested to be mindful of the additional pressures clubs will face in implementing their Covid-19 policies and should take a pragmatic approach, particularly at the early stage of the season.
- Observers should arrive no earlier than 1 hour prior to kick off and should go straight to their position / allocated seat.
- Face coverings should be worn upon arrival at the ground.
- There is to be no contact with the referee at the match.
- Observers should bring their own refreshments if required.
- At the conclusion of the match, Observers should leave the ground as soon as it is safely possible to do so, observing social distancing.

### Post-match

- Observers should, where possible, send a text message to the referee after the game to confirm they attended the match. Please note for any referees U18, Observers must send an email to the referees' parent/carer.
- Referees will organise a post-match debrief to take place via video conferencing (Zoom, Skype, Teams, etc). Should this not be possible, a telephone call should be organised with each of the match officials. Again, please note for any Referees U18, this must be with a parent/carer present.
- The post-match debrief should be completed within 48 hours, ideally within 24 hours, of the end of the game.
- The written report should be submitted as normal.

*This guidance will be reviewed by The Football Association on a regular basis, and should government and FA advice change, then further clarification will be issued as the season progresses.*